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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,599	02/19/2004	Takayuki Yamamoto	Q79835	3181

23373 7590 10/24/2006

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EXAMINER

ZEMEL, IRINA SOPHIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,599

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Irina S. Zemel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 8-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 is not further limiting of claim 1 as amended as claim 6 claims broader range of particles than in the amended base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diacel in combination with US Patent 3,915,910 to Nakano et al., (hereinafter "Nakano").

The rejection of claims stands as per reasons previously applied to claims 5 and 7 which limitations are now incorporated in the base claim 1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8-9-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicants argue that the Diacel reference does not teach all of the limitations of the amended claim 1. The examiner agrees, since the amended claim 1 now includes limitations of the claims that never were rejected as anticipated by Diacel or over Diacel reference alone. The applicants further argue that there is no motivation

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to combine the Diacel and Nakano references, and even if there is such a motivation, the claimed invention would not have been achieved. The examiner disagrees with this argument. The motivation to combine the cited references is expressly discussed in the previous office action. The applicants further argue that Diacel does not disclose the particle size and amount of particles is lower than the claimed amount. On the other hand, while Nakano discloses the particle size corresponding to the claimed size, Nakano is not directed to foamed bodies. This analysis of references is no more than piecemeal analysis of each reference, rather than combined teachings of the cited references. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The teachings of Nakano reference were cited in support of the examiner's position that even though the Diacel is silent as to the particle size, the claimed particle size is the MOST common size for the claimed powdery particles (which are commonly available on the market), and, thus, in the absence of expressed teachings of size in the Diacel reference use of the particles with the claimed particle size, which is a common size for the claimed particles, would have been obvious in the invention of Diacel and with reasonable expectation of adequate results. The applicants were invited to provide showings of unexpected results that can be attributed to the claimed particle size, but no such results are present on the record so far.

The Nakano reference was further cited in support of obviousness to increase the amount of particles in compositions of Diacel since the increase of the amount of such particles results in markedly improved flame retardant properties in polyolefins, or to make the composition "self-extinguishing". The applicants argue that the "powdery particles have been restricted, not from the viewpoint of a flame retardant, but from the function as a nucleating agent at the time of foam-molding". This argument is not convincing for several reasons. First of all, there is no indication in any of the claims that that claimed particles are used as nucleating agents, however there is a clear indication that the particles are used as flame retardants as CLEARLY claimed in claim 8, for example. Second of all, it is immaterial (in the absence of showing of unexpected results) what is the function of the claimed particles so long as they are identical to the particles disclosed in the prior art. In the instant case – the particles are the same in the claims and in both of the cited references. Furthermore, it is well established by the case law that reason or motivation to modify the reference may often suggest what the inventor has done, but for a different purpose or to solve a different problem. It is not necessary that the prior art suggest the combination to achieve the same advantage or result discovered by applicant. *In re Linter*, 458 F.2d 1013, 173 USPQ 560 (CCPA 1972) (discussed below); *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688, 16 USPQ2d 1897 (Fed. Cir. 1990), *cert. denied*, 500 U.S. 904 (1991) . In the instant case, there is a clear motivation to increase the amount of particles in the compositions of Dillon at least to achieve improved flame retardant properties of the final compositions based on the same polymers as in Nakano. As discussed in the previous office action. NO unexpected

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results that can be attribute to either the size or the amounts of the claimed particles are presented on the record. Thus, the invention is still considered to have been clearly obvious from the combined disclosures of the cited references.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

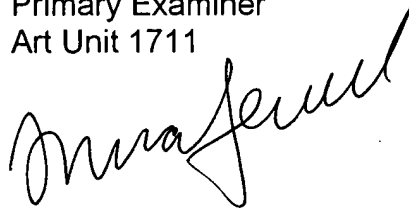
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irina S. Zemel whose telephone number is (571)272-0577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571)272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Irina S. Zemel
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Zemel', written in a cursive style.

ISZ